



southern california dx club

December 2003

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND
CANADA

VY2TT

PEI DX LODGE, Rental Superstation
WWW.PEIDXLODGE.COM

IOTA NA-029
LOC: FN76 VS

CQ ZONE 05
ITU ZONE 09

KEN WIDELITZ
RR#2
Bloomfield, PEI C0B 1
CANADA



Every DXer in the world wants to "do a DXpedition". This year our own TowerMan, KJ6Y, decided he would find a location where he could work the EU pile-ups during the CQWW Phone contest. He dreamed about fighting off the hordes — but, where could he go that was "rare" enough to get attention and also not break the bank? He ruled out the Caribbean because it seemed that EVERYONE goes to the Caribbean. Then he heard of the Prince Edward Island "Rental Super Station" and the plans were made. Skip arrived on PEI high on the idea of working a whole lot of bout 110K Q's. Well, he did not make that score—but he had a blast and is ready to go again. He was joined by K6LA, VY2SS,

Soap Box— Words from our President

Voice of the Veep



I think it's hard for anyone under the age 35 to fully appreciate how limited communications technology was when I was growing up as a kid in Detroit, Michigan back in the 1960's. Communications satellites were still in the experimental stage, and there was no such thing as "live via satellite" reports from other countries. Cable TV was likewise unknown. Living in Detroit, we had three TV stations (one for each network) and a couple of independent VHF stations. I remember when my dad got us our first UHF converter, so we could watch the Detroit Red Wing Hockey games on Channel 50. That UHF Converter was a rabbit ear antenna and converter, but it wasn't too long after that that I was looking for a rotatable UHF antenna to put on our roof, to see if I could pick up "DX TV" stations from Flint, Toledo, and Lansing (60 -90 miles away). Most of our local TV stations signed off at about 1:00 a.m. and came back on the air around 5:00 a.m. There were only a handful of FM radio stations on the air, and most AM stations operated only from sunrise to midnight. I remember my brother and I building a Lafayette Radio low power FM transmitter so we could set up our own Broadcast station in our bedroom, and we became the local music disk jockeys and sports commentators for the other kids in the neighborhood, when I was about 13 years old...

In 1969, I had earned something magical. It was called a FCC Novice class amateur radio license. After struggling to learn the code off and on for 3 years, I finally passed the test in sending and receiving Morse code and a short exam on basic radio theory and operating procedures. The FCC assigned me my own set of station call letters, WN8ENN. And suddenly my world became limitless.

I would spend evenings and late nights in front of my Drake 2NT Transmitter and Drake R4B receiver, tapping out CQ calls in Morse code with a hand key inviting anyone who heard me to answer. I had a bunch of crystals so I could QSY my transmit frequency, to get to the low, middle, and high edges of the Novice Bands on 80, 40, and 15 meters. Hams

from hundreds of miles away would respond to my calls and "talk" to me using CW. Late one night I was thrilled to have someone all the way out in California answer me. . . . and I remember thinking that maybe someday I would get to go to California, and perhaps even live there, maybe even close to Disneyland! I also remember the cold chill that ran down my spine when my first DX station

(Continued on page 8)



We are getting ready to start the new year and we are looking for some great hams who care about the club and want to see it continue to prosper in the years to come. We need commitment from a few of you great dxer's who

are willing to sit on the board and sometime in the future take on positions of officers. I know that you are out there and I know that you would just love to serve and continue to bring unity to the club for future generations. My e-mail address is k6vc@scdxc.org. This great opportunity starts January 8, 2004. General elections of officers will be held at our January 8, 2004 meeting and as always is opened to the floor for nominations and votes.

I am also suggesting that if you know someone who will qualify for DXer of the Year, it is time to start looking and asking those you feel are qualified to submit their applications to the President, you will have until February 29, 2004 to apply. Also, is our Rookie DXer of the year (Clipperton Award). This award is submitted by the applicant and requires as many confirmed countries within a 13 month period of time of which includes your membership to the club. See Website scdxc.org go to awards for rules. This award is also due no later than February 29, 2004. Yes this is a leap year.....

January meeting will not have a presentation, it will be a social event on how your year went and stories that occurred that were eventful to you in 2003. Think of all the DX stations that you may have worked that year. I will also bring Decaf and regular coffee as well as some tea bags and of course Hot Water.

Carl & I are hoping to be in our new home by December 20th or at least by the new year. See you at the Luncheon on December 7, 2003 @ 12:30pm at the Orange Hill Restuarant located on Chapman Ave in Orange just East of the 55 Freeway.

73's and Happy Holidays to All
Cathy K6VC

**For convention information please check our web site at
www.scdxc.org/visalia**

MEETING NOTES

de the secretary



I hope everyone's equipment made it through the thunderstorms last month without any problems. We had a nice turnout for the meeting this month including new members Marv, K6HCJ and Tommy, K6YE. We look forward to their presence at future meetings and events. The annual Holiday Party is December 7th so if you

have not got your reservations yet you need to e-mail me immediately at n6dhz@scdxc.org. The party is at a great location with excellent food and you don't want to miss out.

We were able to get Pat Marcy, W7PZ to the meeting this time despite Dale, KB7UB, Dan, N6PEQ and Kristin, K6PEQ doing their best to get lost for a second time trying to get from the deli to the meeting. Pat brought us up to date on the Icom IC-7800 "Super Radio" which hopefully will be out in the first quarter of 2004. Based on the information Icom has given out so far this radio should have all the things a DXer will want. Including four antenna I/O ports with two RX only ports two receivers with an output to Stereo headset jack. Built in RTTY/PSK31, a full 200w on 6m-160m, built in power supply and for those who share their equipment with another operator (note to KJ6Y) the radio will have flash Compact flash memory card to store all you settings, filters, mic gain, display etc. This way when the "Boss" or your daughter want to operate they simply insert their card and the radio is all set for them. Be sure to download the brochure on the IC-7800 and read about all the features. If this radio lives up to half of its expectations it should make a big splash in the market. I know you can sign me up for a test drive.

The raffle was as usual another fine list of prizes with an Icom IC-T7H Dual-Band Handheld that was won by Don, N6IC. Bob, W6ZPL made three trips to the front taking away among other things a Heil Traveler Headset. Mel, K6SY walked off with an Alpha Delta Pathfinder Antenna Switch. Thanks again this month to HRO and to Dale, KB7UB who personally donated several items to the raffle.

Speaking of Mel, he also won the Visalia logo contest winning a free registration to the 2004 Interna-

tional DX Convention. If you would like to volunteer to help with the convention, have a program or suggestion for a program, send an e-mail to visalia@scdxc.org. Information on the convention, accommodations, and registration forms are available on the web site at www.scdxc.org/visalia.

Here are some numbers that might be of interest to you, in the last twenty-four hours I received 320 Spam e-mails. That's 13.33 per hour or one almost every 4.5 minutes. Now assuming this pace stayed steady, and I'm sure it won't it will increase. That would be a mere 116,800 Spam e-mails per year. That is just for one person, if you were to multiply that by the club membership you would be in the neighborhood of 20.3 Million (20,300,000). Just a little food for thought.

One other thing I need to get off my chest is that I did not break Larry, K6YUI's radio, I was not even touching it at the time it fried. So if you were concerned about inviting me over to operate your station don't be. IT WAS NOT MY FAULT! Okay two things, I can verify that Larry's shack is now clean. Not only can more than one person fit into the room, you can sit on the couch and walk freely about the room. One warning though, if you do sit on the couch his dog Banjo will go nuts. You see Banjo is only 4-years old and she has never seen anyone sit on the couch.

73 DE Jim, N6DHZ

DUES ARE DUE!

Club dues must be paid by Dec 31. So — send a check now. 2004 dues are still \$18. Checks should be sent to Membership Chairman, K6YUI, Larry, 2528 Britain Way, Anaheim CA 92801-1413

NONINATIONS ARE OPEN

Nominations for club officers for 2004 are open. If you wish to run for office or have a nomination. Please contact either Cathy or Herb as soon as possible.

Nominations will also be accepted from the floor at the January meeting.

MEETING NOTICE REMINDER

There is no meeting in December.
See you at the Holiday Party

Ham Puzzle

By Milt, W6RJO



Answer to last month puzzle

If the 4 ohm resistor was connected in parallel, and the ballast was good, then the former would have to dissipate $P=(3.8)X(3.8)/4 = 3.61$ watts. a 5 watt 4 ohm resistor). This resistor would be difficult to hide and still get enough air cooling, since the Type I and Type II units look alike. However, in series $P=(0.3)$

$X(0.3)X4 = 0.36$ watts. one or two half watt resistors) would be easy to hide. So, the Type II tester uses a 4 ohm resistor in series.

Underground Parked Radios

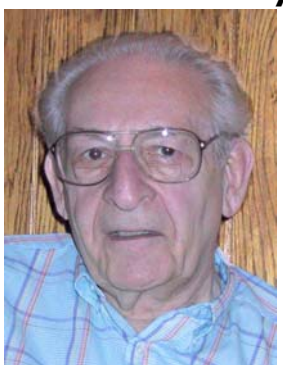
When V.H.Ham parks in a semi. enclosed underground parking garage with his VHF car rig tuned to a 2 meter. repeater, he usually has little difficulty hearing it, since its signal level is only perceptibly less than it is in the streets. However, when he switches to his 75 meter car rig he hears, no signal-not even on those occasions at night when 75 meters is hot. He thinks that something is wrong with his HF radio. Is that the case, or what?

Here is a quick one sent in last week. Nothing to do with radio, but a good exercise —

If you have a container of beach sand mixed with cooking oil how can you separate the oil from the sand?

Propagation Dec 2003

by Shel, W6EL



These predictions show the times when short-path propagation is expected to be best from Los Angeles to several locations during the December 13-14 10 meter con-

test. Other times are possible, but with weaker signals or lower probability. A solar flux of 150, corresponding to a sunspot number of 100, and an average geomagnetic field are assumed. Sunrise/sunset times are at the DX location. All times are UTC.

Good luck and good DX from Shel, W6EL.

DA Germany -
Beam 30 degrees
Sunrise/sunset (on 12/13) 0721/1515
Around 1630.

H4 Solomon Islands -
Beam 258 degrees
Sunrise/sunset (on 12/13)
1901/0731
1930-0200.

JA Japan -
Beam 307 degrees
Sunrise/sunset (on 12/13)
2154/0739
2230-0030.

KP4 Puerto Rico -
Beam 95 degrees
Sunrise/sunset (on 12/13)
1051/2147
1600-2100.

LU Argentina -
Beam 137 degrees
Sunrise/sunset (on 12/13)
0847/2310
1530-0030.

P4 Aruba -
Beam 104 degrees
Sunrise/sunset (on 12/13)
1055/2213
1600-2200.

PJ Netherlands Antilles -
Beam 103 degrees
Sunrise/sunset (on 12/13)

1050/2208
1600-2200.

ZC4 UK Bases on Cyprus -
Beam 24
Sunrise/sunset (on 12/13)
0448/1434
1600-1630 (Low probability).

ZS South Africa -
Beam 87 degrees
Sunrise/sunset (on 12/13)
0321/1659
1530/2300.

NEEDED AND WANTED

Articles, QSLs, notes of interest for the SCDXC Newsletter.

Highest price paid for all stuff printed.

Send to the editor,
K6EXO@scdxc.org

*Happy Holidays
de the
Board of the SCDXC*

DX Convention Visalia 2004



Hello Everyone

As we get ready to go into the new year, our committee is already making plenty of plans for the DX Convention in Visalia, April 23 - 25 2004. If you have not already volunteered for any positions or just to help out, you can reach me at wu6d@scdxc.org. I will gladly give your name to those who are needing assistance with their particular committee.

We will have our traditional golf tournament and yes, US Towers will be holding a

Lunch at their facility on Saturday. Our Bus Tour committee for the YL's and whomever else would like to attend have an exciting trip planned with raffle prizes and a lunch. The banquet will have a theme to it this year, just to spice things up. Clothing will as always will be what you are comfortable wearing, but Hawaii is the theme so you have many options if you would like. Naturally, there will be a great raffle as always in the tradition of SCDXC.

The Next DX Convention meeting will be held January 2004 on the Saturday of TRW. We are planning on having it at Mel Hugh's work place in his break room. Of course we will keep you informed if there are any changes.

Thanks

Carl Gardenias, WU6D
Convention Chair

A WINNER!

If you have not yet seen the Dec 2003 issue of QST, can you answer the trivia question :
WHO WON FIELD DAY CATEGORY 5E?

Surprise----the answer is W6AQ!!!!

Full details on page 95 --- only one other station in the category and we whupped him good! If you cannot wait for QST to arrive, please check the ARRL website at the following url:
<http://www.arrl.org/contests/results>
and scroll down to Field Day, and then find your category. You can also search the database for the call W6AQ, or the section, LAX, or several other ways.

None of the accompanying info, photos, etc., made the article as near as I can tell. But the Division Director, Asst Dir and retiring VP made the photo gallery on page 93.

Congratulations all.

And as Don, K6IPV, keeps saying: "just wait til next year, , , " ((I don't know why he says that, but he does like to see his name in print)).

--

Alan Kaul W6RCL LaCanada, CA 91011
e-mail: w6rcl@amsat.org
<http://home.att.net/~alan.kaul/index.html>

QSL's I like!

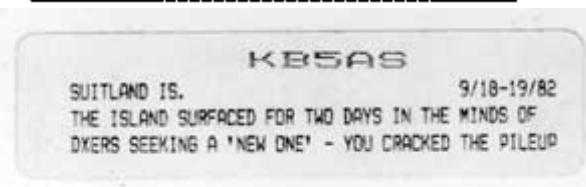
de Milt, W6QE

I've attached 2 .jpg's of a card I received for a contact in Sept of 1982.

Big Pile Up!...Lot's of antenna!...Lot's of Power!...and the satisfaction of putting it in the log. Isn't that what really counts?

The joke was on me, and I laughed. I still laugh when I see this card. It was well done by the perpetrator and the Pirate even had enough class to send cards out!

Thanks, 73 es DX



PAY DUES NOW
YOUR SCDXC DUES SHOULD BE PAID BY DEC 31.

DXER OF THE YEAR
WHO WILL IT BE THIS YEAR?

IOTA DXpedition to Isla de Todos Santos (NA-162)

Jim Zimmerman, N6KZ

Background (“Why would we ever want to do a DXpedition to Mexico?”)

The Islands On The Air (IOTA) operating program has made going to salt water ocean islands the destination of choice for DXers in all seven continents. Indeed, the amount of operating activity from the United States IOTAs, to include Alaska, Hawaii, and our Pacific possessions alone will allow any serious operator to bag a new one just about every month. Canadian hams have also been busy keeping their IOTAs active and available to the faithful.

Mexico has a bunch of IOTAs, but one hardly ever hears them on largely due to the limitation in licensing privileges for visiting hams (reciprocal licenses) that does not permit operations from islands *unless accompanied by a licensee Mexican amateur*. In other words, for each non-Mexican ham on an IOTA DXpedition, there must be one, Mexican ham. This, in addition to the logistical difficulties in obtaining operating permission, has kept the Mexican IOTAs rarely heard and at the top of the Needed List.

Previous Mexican IOTA Operations (“Has this been done before?”)

For every DXpedition challenge, an individual usually emerges that finds a way to reward the Faithful with a QSL card. Take any “difficult” DXCC destination (North Korea, Clipperton Island, St Peter/Paul Rocks, Campbell Island, etc) and you will find that eventually they got so rare that dedicated individuals arose to find a way to get operating permission, assemble the operating team, and lead the expedition. For our trip out to NA-162 (Baja California State North West Group), this individual was Hector, XE2L.

The Baja California State North West Group contains three, separate island archipelagos: Todos Santos, the Coronado Islands, and San Martin Island. Of these three, Hector chose Todos Santos Islands as our target based upon its accommodations to support a small DXpedition.

The Islands of Todos Santos (“Will we be able to hang antennas up from palm trees?”)

These twin islands (Isla Norte and Isla Sur) about 20 km (12 miles) southwest of San Miguel-or west of Ensenada the same distance-offer a variety of recreation opportunities. Fishing is good along the western shores of both islands, especially for yellowtail, halibut, and sea bass. For longer visits boats can safely anchor in three coves along the eastern shore of the southern island (Isla Sur). For hikers, Isla Sur offers the most interesting terrain, with cliffs along the perimeter and a hilly interior. The highest elevation is approximately 100 meters ASL. Isla Norte is mostly flat, with a radio tower and two lighthouses (one active, the other inactive). Both islands are nesting grounds for brown pelicans, cormorants, blue herons, ospreys, and various other sea bird species.

These islands are best known as the site of the Pacific coast’s biggest surf. As Surfing Guide magazine wrote last year “The waves here laugh at your 8’2” board”. November through February, a deep-water northwest swell sweeps the skinny northwestern point of Isla Norte to produce powerful eight to ten meter (25-30 foot) waves. Surfers sometime camp on the flat Isla Norte, but most just boat out for the day from Ensenada or San Miguel, Mexico. (Source: Moon Handbook on Baja)

We reviewed imagery of both islands available on the Internet that confirmed the above assessment. They both seemed to be rocky, barren, treeless desert islands with few level locations to set up stations.

The XF1K Operating Team (“The Magnificent Six”)

Hector, XE2L, requested the call sign XF1K for this (and his previous trip out to NA-167) adventure. His team choices would be a total of six operators, three from Mexico and three from the United States. This would be a large enough team to economically set up the antennas in the difficult island terrain, operate the multiple HF/VHF/Satellite stations to work US, JA, and the far-off EU stations.

The Mexican operators consisted of Hector, XE2L (DXpedition and XE Team Leader), Emilio, XE2ZY (SSB Operator), and Ramon, XE2ED (Satellite and VHF Operator). All three were skilled hams with previous experience on trips out to Mexican IOTAs or up to the tops of Mexican mountain peaks to activate rare grid squares.

(Continued on page 10)



WE VISIT W6OB

I took my exam at the Friendly Candy Company (i.e. FCC) office in Los Angeles, CA and was licensed on May 23, 1939 the day of my mothers birthday. The license arrived nine weeks and two days following the test. I lived in Compton at that time and was already "hooked" on chasing DX. The tests for a license at that time were ten questions with essay answers, that's why the nine weeks to check the essay answers. The CW test had just gone from 10 WPM to 13 WPM.

My first transmitter was a 6L6 with an output of about 25 Watts. Everyone at that time was crystal controlled and I had a rock (crystal) for 40 and one for 80 meters. My receiver was a home made TRF, tubes 56, 57 & 58. I later bought a Hallicrafter SX25, a superhet receiver. My antenna at the time was a long wire end fed and about 500ft. long, pointed to Europe on the short path. I worked about 20 entities with that system. I was still living at home with my parents then.



In 1940 I got married and things changed in my Ham operations. That change lasted about a year and on December 7, 1941 things big happened and we were all off the air. I did however tune the receiver during that time. I would often listen to Tokyo Rose and when she would talk to a captive soldier, they would always give their home address. So I would write to the parents and pass along any message the soldier they had for them. That was very rewarding to me and I later found out that one of the 5 Tokyo Roses went to school in Compton before the War.



For the war effort, I took the Cadet exams and passed all the tests, I was not called up before they closed the Cadet Program, so I joined "Uncle Sam Canoe". . . My daughter was about six weeks old at that time. I wound up in Squadron VPB 198 chasing Japanese Subs in the Pacific. I was a Radio/Radar operator and got very good at Morse code. The Navy shore operators were 40+ WPM.

After the war, I went back to my job in aerospace. There was a lot of surplus gear available at the right price and most of us built California KW's. I bought a new home in Compton and planted a phone pole about 40 feet high with a 20 meter three element Yagi beam. I put the K.W. in a closet just off the living room, as the two bedrooms were for the two kids (3000 Volts)!! This was about the time we were all allowed back on the Ham bands and it was great. I had just bought a new receiver an HQ129x. In 1949, I found Voice communications and got my class "A" license. The Compton Gashouse Gang became active again with DX spots via the LL (land line/telephone). Those LL's at 2:30 A.M!! was something my wife never understood.

About this time the So. Ca. DX Club was created, and I was elected as the first V.P. of the Cub. Bill Adams was the President and a great guy. I had just received my WAZ #111 dated Mar. 1949 which qualified me as a Charter Member. Things change and in 1953 I moved out of Compton to Palos Verdes. Just "key clicks" away from Don Wallace, W6AM. It was a great location but with limited antennas, so DX was on the side again. I did however have a home made all-band vertical.

In 1964 we moved to Huntington Beach with a job upgrade and I was on the reception committee when Presi-

(Continued on page 11)

SOAP BOX

(Continued from page 2)

called me, a ZL and I didn't even have a clue as to where New Zealand was in the world, let alone how far away it was from my home in Detroit. And, of course, I had to log everything in my paper ARRL log book, even my CQ's that weren't answered, and the stations I called that never answered us, etc..... About nine months later, I earned my General Class License, becoming WA8ENN, and soon added a Drake T4XB, 75 feet of Rohn 25, a Ham M Rotor, a Mosley Classic 36, and Henry 3KA amplifier to the arsenal. And, I had to explore the modes of AM, SSB, and RTTY and the whole new spectrum of bands and frequencies that my newly acquired license provided for me.

After every contact, I would send a QSL card to the other ham confirming the date, time, and frequency that I contacted him or her. Soon, I started getting similar cards back from the hams I had contacted. Those cards were as important to me as the baseball cards I collected as a kid. But, more importantly, each QSL card seem to be a lasting, treasured memento of that time when I reached out through space and made a new friend in some place far away.

Today, I can pull out my cell phone while walking down the street and talk to anyone / anywhere in the world. The whole world is a button click away via the Web and my local PacBell ISP. And Internet Phone, Instant Messenger and Internet Video technologies lets anyone meet new people from all over the world.

Ham radio is definitely "low tech" compared to the Web. Ham radio is a weird communications medium, subject to the whims of the Earth's ionosphere and the Sun gods and their whims of solar activity, propagation, etc. We have sun spot cycles, grey lines, Solar Events like CME's, Solar Flares, Coronal Streams, Solar Winds, and who knows what else. We have short path, long path, skewed path, long delayed echoes, short skip, long skip, D, E, & F layers, A & K Indexes, backscatter, tropo ducting, moon bounce, repeaters, satellites, and more. Signals from distant stations fade in and out; sometimes stations interfere with each other. We even have "Propagation Prediction Software". None of it is really reliable, easy, or pain-free communications. In fact, some time's it maddening, infuriating, frustrating, and often it's a total and complete waste of time, as I sit there wondering why I am listening to nothing other than static, noises, pops, cracks, whistles, QRM / QRN and the like for hours on end.

But that's why I love ham radio. Like surfers who spend hours in the ocean waiting for that one great wave, I like waiting for those moments when conditions peak and my radio dial is flooded with signals from around the world. I still enjoy trying to contact other hams in distant countries and swapping QSL cards with them. I enjoy DX contests where we waste an entire weekend trying to contact as many other hams, countries, zones, or call sign prefixes as possible. I enjoy playing with my antennas, coax, filters,

grounds, noise blankers, and my radios "bells and whistles" looking for an elusive "extra db" or some other "edge" / "advantage" to help in snaring some extra contact that I need on some strange band or mode. I love that certain "black magic" aspect to ham radio that's a welcome change from the bland predictability and reliability of the Internet and Web.

To me, Ham Radio is like a mystical religion of sorts. Its appeal is not easily explained, and most people we know will never get "it." But for those of us with a bit of technical inclination and an interest in communications, science, and the mysterious, it's one of the greatest hobbies you can have. Gosh, I love this hobby.....

73 for now de Herb / KG6OK net

W6FRZ SK

We are saddened to report that Steve, W6FRZ, has become a silent key.



Steve was first licensed at age 12 (KN1LFT). His family moved to Long Beach, CA when he was 13 and he upgraded to General, WA6JLL. When he was 18 he moved back to Connecticut

and got the call K1LFT. He received the call W6FRZ when he returned to California at age 20.

Steve was a past President of the SCDXC. He enjoyed being the DX Club Photographer, and did Slide Presentations all over CA as well in AZ, and NV of the 1984 Presentation of the Southern California Big Guns Slide Show. Steve enjoyed DXing on CW and SSB. He was on the Honor Roll with a total of 329/347.

Steve moved to Henderson NV with his XYL, Franceen some time ago and was retired.

Professionally, Steve was in the Heath Care industry and also worked in Orthopedic Medicine. In addition, he was a Instructor at a few private Junior Colleges for almost 5 years teaching X-ray Technicians. Other hobbies included music as a Violinist, the Viola, and Guitar and Piano.

We will all miss seeing Steve at Visalia.

Randy, W6SJ, visited St. John, US Virgin Islands



The call came in July. A friend called to say that Paul Jordan, NP2JF, had offered his home on St. John, US Virgin Islands for 10 days in October. A quick check of the calendar showed that this period would cover the CA QSO party and the PA QSO party that his group normally work from their PA QTH. It sounded like a wonderful opportunity so we set it in motion.

Saturday morning, after a lovely breakfast with a dozen local hams, we managing to get our three-position station working and started the CA QSO party. We had fun in the afternoon and early evening but the dreams of someone working the contest all night evaporated about 10PM when everyone decided sleep was more important. Perils of taking old guys on a trip. The results of the party were acceptable but not great. KP2 is not a multiplier in that contest so we were "interesting" but not sought after.

During the following week we had an opportunity to work some DX, mostly Europe, although I did get VK9XW on the first call on 20 meters. I sat down for about 2 hours of DX operating time on 15 and 30 meters. At first I had opportunities for nice "chats" with 84 year old Jim, GM2CIX, who says he's too old to start using e-mail, and Sergio, IK4JPR. Then when we finished, there were 2 guys waiting and then 5 then 10, and I switched to TU 5NN BK . . . TU QRZ.

A few familiar names showed up, Rade, VA7OO, and Phil, G2SWH, but there were a bunch of Europeans who hadn't ever QSO'd the USVI on 30 meters.

As a West Coast ham with a vertical antenna, my experience working Europe was pretty limited and even though I had been warned, I was astonished at the wall of sound that occurs when 25 stations all call you at once! No one ever lines up to talk with a W6, and I have never had the opportunity to "run" in a contest so this was an unusual opportunity for me and one I enjoyed thoroughly.

When the "deluge" started I was able to get going at a pace of 50 per hour, a total of 100 QSO's with 25 countries in 2 hours. That's twice as many Eu stations than I have contacted in the last year from home! It was fun but I must say that it is also hard work trying to pick out calls from the mob. I have a new-found admiration for the people who go on DXpeditions, and they do it for 16 hours per day for a week!

For the week between the contests, our group got in a lot of swimming and sight-seeing but still made almost 3,000 QSO's to 85 entities, many of the contacts being on the WARC bands. I'm sure that had anyone tried hard, a DXCC could easily have been accomplished.

For those who are interested in St. John, it is a gorgeous island. You can get there in one day from CA. Two-thirds of the small island is a national park and it's American controlled, although after the years of British influence, they do drive on the other side of the road. For the ham it is a VERY civilized way to do a DXpedition and for those who are not constrained by budget, you can take your wife along and ensconce her in Caneel Bay, one of the world's top destination resorts, while you are fiddling with your rigs.

Glad I went and can't wait to do it again.

Ed note: The Board thanks Randy for his special support of the newsletter.



OUR SPECIAL GUEST

Pat Marcy, W7PZ, of ICOM was our guest at the November meeting.

Thanks for the talk and goodies Pat!

(Continued from page 6)

The United States operators consisted of Ray, N6VR (US Team Leader), Dave, N6NA (Skilled Contest SSB/CW Operator), and myself, N6KZ (Heavy Equipment Carrier and Antenna Erector).

The Operation (“We’re taking these yagis to Mexico!”)

After an uneventful US-XE border crossing, the entire XF1K Team met up for the first time in Tijuana, Mexico the evening of 3 September 03, at the home of Ramon, XE2ED. We then drove over to a local Mexican food restaurant and sampled the local cuisine (hot stuff). Full and fully loaded in our three vehicles, we then drove down in the darkness to the port city of Ensenada, Mexico, located about 80 miles south on the western coast of Mexico. As we drove down the coast we could see the rotating searchlight out in the dark Pacific Ocean from the Isla Norte of Todos Santos, arriving safely at Ensenada, staying at the Hotel Bahia, near the port.

Early the next morning (earlier for those on the XF1K Team who went out drinking margarita till midnight the previous night!), we drove the short distance to the quiet, dark Ensenada harbor to load our gear onto the good ship Jaunita, a 32-foot charter fishing boat. With the rising sun just peaking over the eastern Mexican mountains we slowly sailed out of the harbor into gently rolling seas, on to the Todos Santos Islands.

The Setup (“A Tale of Two Stations”)

After a trip lasting about 1 hour we arrived at Isla Sur (the southern island) at a commercial fish camp, which would be our operating location and home for the next 4 days. Hector, XE2K had previously contacted the owner-operators of this camp, explaining our purpose, requesting access to stay at their main camp. Upon our arrival we unloaded the Jaunita and moved our large amount of equipment, food, and fresh water up the 75-foot ramp to the fish camp’s main house. Antenna and two, separate station locations were chosen, set up, and by 2000Z the XF1K team was on the air!

The upper station was established upon a 200-foot high ridge above the fish camp in a large tent. This station had two HF stations, the satellite station, and the VHF (6 meter) station. This station had two, three-element yagis (a HyGainTH-3 and a Cushcraft A-3), mounted upon 30- and 25-foot vertical masts, respectively. The satellite antennas (AO-40) were mounted upon a short roof tower, ground mounted. A Cushcraft R-7 vertical mast-mounted on the edge of the sea cliff and two, 40-foot apex inverted vee wires (40 and 80 meters) completed the upper station antenna arrays. This upper station was used by the other five operators for the majority of their time on 15, 17, 20, 30, 40, and 80 meters SSB and CW.

A second, smaller station was set up on the porch of the fish camp main building. The antenna there was a single, Gap vertical put up on a 30-foot sea cliff overlooking the Pacific Ocean. This was the station that I spent most of my time operating on 30 and 40 meters CW.

The Operation (“You guys get busy and make a few thousand Qs...”)

Despite the long drive down from the States, the sea voyage, the difficult conditions encountered setting up the two, separate, and the operating locations (heat, sun, and limited access to drinking water) our equipment and antennas worked pretty well. Stations were quickly worked in EU, JA, and, of course, all over the US. The remaining three days fell into a slow, hot routine of eating, sleeping, enjoying the Pacific Ocean views, and operating the pileups of IOTA Faithful.

By Saturday evening, our last night on the island, we had over 6K QSOs and decided to begin taking down our stations to be ready for the 9 am arrival of the good ship, Jaunita, on Sunday morning. Everything came down just fine (we were blessed by a wet sea fog that morning) so we loaded the equipment and ourselves onto the Jaunita for the return voyage through the quiet sea back to Ensenada. Upon landing, we unloaded our gear from the boat into our cars for the final time, wished each other well, and went our separate ways home to hot showers and much deserved rests.

The Wrap up (“Where do we go next?”)

The results of the XF1K operation were most satisfying, considering the only fair band conditions and difficulty of the operating environment. We made over 6K QSOs with a good split between CW and SSB modes. Our satellite station made over 60 QSOs with several DX stations. The 6 meter operation made a number of regional contacts, giving out our grid square, DM-11 to the “magic band” Faithful.

The entire XF1K Team would like to thank Mr. Eric Pederson for his fine hospitality that allowed us to stay at his commercial fish camp on Isla Sur. We would also like to thank Mr. Roger Balaster, G3MAY, of the RSGB for his review and accreditation of our DXpedition documentation for this trip. Finally, we would like to recognize the continuing efforts of our QSL manager, Fred, N6AWD, for his support. We hope that you worked us on the Todos Santos Islands, NA-162. Look for us from another rare Mexican IOTA sometime soon!

(Continued from page 7)

W6OB

dent Lyndon Johnson dedicated the facility in 1963. Still no big antenna just a vertical. My job demanded lots of travel, and I had a lot of trouble studying for the Extra class license, but I managed and received the upgrade in August 1969. About 1976, my old Shop Teacher then W6OB became a SK. I wrote a letter to the FCC requesting his call. At that time I was K6PE (pink elephants). Twelve weeks later I received my present call W6OB.

Yet another move as I retired from the Company in 1976 after spending 36 years in the Quality Control phase of the business. I retired as Quality Manager at the McDonnell Douglas' Huntington Beach facility. Highlights of my job at Huntington, CA, I had lunch with Neil Armstrong in Houston after he came back from the moon. The other biggie, was I received a personal letter from Wernher Von Braun for my efforts in the search for why Ed White and crew, were lost at the Cape in the Apollo 1 fire in 1967

My wife Helen and I spent weeks looking for a place to move. After many looks, we decided to move to Hemet, CA, as it was quiet and laid

back. I put up a beam on a 40ft. tower and I was back on the DX hunt. I had a Kenwood TS 940S and a SB200 linear.

As a final comment, I must say, I have taken a lot from the Ham Radio and I have tried to give back some. Being involved with the V.E. Program, I have been in charge of the Program for 16 years and my team has processed some 700 applicants of both new Hams as well as upgrades. I have also been involved with RACES in the valley.



**Expert Tower and Antenna
Installation, Sales and Service
New and Used Equipment
TV Systems - Satellite TV**

Skip Bolnick, KJ6Y
22712 Califa Street
Woodland Hills, CA 91367
(818) 887-3569
e mail KJ6Y@aol.com
[http://members.aol.com/
kj6y/skip.html](http://members.aol.com/kj6y/skip.html)

**COMMUNICATIONS
SERVICE COMPANY**

Who We Are

The SCDXC Newsletter is published monthly by the Southern California DX Club and is e-mailed to all club members.

Please notify the editor if you do not receive your newsletter, have a change of address, or have found an error.

Please direct all submissions to the editor.

The SCDXC generally permits reuse of any article in the Newsletter as long as the newsletter and the article's author are credited. However, some articles may be copyrighted by the author. Please contact the editor.

Club Repeater: W6AM/R
145.48 MHz, 100 Hz PL
Club Web Site: www.scdxc.org

Newsletter Editor:
Harvey Shore K6EXO
6433 Pat Ave West Hills, CA 91307
(818) 716-5681
E-mail: K6EXO@scdxc.org

At the December meeting of the SCDX Club, Marian Heslenfeld, KG6KKH, during the introductions indicated that her goal for 2003 was to put an "X" in front of her "YL." On a beautifully clear and sunny Saturday, November 1, 2003, at St. John Fisher Catholic Church in Rancho Palos Verdes she reached her goal. Marian married Joe Locascio, K5KT. Marian was born in British Columbia, Canada and came to the United States in 1999 taking a job as Librarian with the Palos Verdes Library District. She and Joe met two years later at the local Starbucks.

Marian's older sister, Theresa and Judy her younger sister were the Bridesmaids. Bryn, Judy's daughter was Flower Girl and Junior Bridesmaid. Sal Locascio, Joe's older brother was Best Man and Mel Hughes, K6SY, was the other Groomsman. Joe's grandson, Marcus was the Ring bearer.

Following the Wedding Mass, the guests traveled to Fort Macarthur for drinks and appetizers in the Harbor View Room and then dinner in the Ballroom. A wonderful time was had by all

The couple honeymooned in KH6 land.

Congrats to Joe and Marian!

